

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 COA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 EA-11 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CG-00 AID-20 DRC-01 /156 W
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R 072239Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8543

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4691

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH GOE FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: QUITO 4612

1. AT A PRIVATE DINNER SEPTEMBER 5, GOE FOREIGN MINISTER, ANTONIO JOSE LUCIO PAREDES, MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS TO CONSUL GENERAL IN GUAYAQUIL, EARL H. LUBENSKY:

2. ECUADOR HAD THUS FAR EXERCISED GREAT RESTRAINT IN PREVENTING PUBLICITY OF NOTIFICATION OF REIMBURSEMENT TO TUNA FISHING BOATS OF FINES PAID TO ECUADOR. THIS DIFFERED FROM THE PERUVIAN SITUATION IN WHICH GOP HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE U.S. NOTIFICATION UNDER FPA, AND THUS HAD NO REASON TO PUBLICIZE. HE FELT COMPELLED, HOWEVER, TO MENTION THE NOTIFICATION AND MAKE THE APPROPRIATE PROTEST IN HIS ADDRESS BEFORE THE UPCOMING UNGA.

3. HE LAMENTED THAT U.S. LAW INVOLVED SANCTIONS AGAINST ECUADOR WHICH ECUADOR BELIEVED WERE A VIOLATION
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OF THE OAS CHARTER. ALTHOUGH HE PERSONALLY UNDERSTOOD

THE SITUATION EXISTING BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND CONGRESS, THE ECUADOREAN PUBLIC, HE INSISTED, COULD NOT SEE THE DIFFERENCE. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SITUATION REPRESENTED A CONFLICT OF LAWS AND NOT A CLEAR-CUT RIGHT OF ECUADOR TO CLAIM OF 200 MILES. WITH A NOD AND A SMILE HE IN EFFECT ADMITTED THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE JUST AS MUCH RIGHT AS ECUADOR TO CLAIM VIOLATION OF THE OAS CHARTER BECAUSE OF ECUADOR'S USE OF FORCE TO IMPOSE ITS POSITION AND THEREBY TO CHANGE INTERNATIONAL LAW. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE U.S. HAS NOT PUSHED THIS POINT BECAUSE OF THE AWKWARD POSITION IN WHICH GREAT POWERS ARE PLACED WHEN SMALLER NATIONS AGGRESSIVELY ASSERTED THEIR INTERESTS.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER LOOKED FORWARD TO A "REVITALIZATION" OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA WITH MR. KISSINGER AS SECRETARY OF STATE. HE EXPECTED, OR AT LEAST HOPED, TO TALK TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AT THE UNGA, ESPECIALLY ABOUT THE LAW-OF-THE-SEA PROBLEM.

5. THE QUESTION OF CUBA AROSE. ECUADOREAN VITAL INTEREST DID NOT DICTATE THAT ECUADOR MAKE A POSITIVE PUSH TOWARD HEMISPHERIC RESTORATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA. ECUADOR'S ONLY INTEREST WAS IN PRESERVATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, AND CONTINUATION OF THE STATUS QUO WAS DAMAGING TO THE SYSTEM. HE FAVORED LETTING COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS UNILATERALLY LIFT THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED AGAINST CUBA, IF THAT WAS WHAT THEY WANTED TO DO. HE FELT THAT AT ANY MOMENT MR. KISSINGER WOULD SHOW UP IN HAVANA, AS HAPPENED IN THE CASE OF CHINA, MAKING AN ARRANGEMENT WITH CUBA WITHOUT NECESSARILY CONSULTING WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES BEFOREHAND.

6. RELATIONS WITH CHINA WERE ALSO MENTIONED. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKE OF THE ARRANGEMENT MADE FOR CHINA TO PURCHASE 20,000 TONS OF ECUADOREAN BANANAS. RELATIONS WITH CHINA HE SAID WERE FOR VERY PRAGMATIC REASONS, THAT IS WHETHER ECUADOR COULD SELL BANANASS OR NOT. HE SAW NO NEED, HOWEVER, FOR INTENSIFICATION OF RELATIONS FOR THE TIME BEING BEYOND CONTACT ALREADY MAINTAINED AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNITED NATIONS. HE INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT ECUADOR COULD NOT IGNORE THE 800 MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN CHINA, OR THE BANANAS THEY COULD EAT, SAY A BANANA A DAY PER PERSON.

7. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS ON FISHING ISSUE ARE CONSISTENT WITH EARLIER INDICATIONS REPORTED REFTEL FROM HIS SUBSECRETARY THAT GOE WAS ACTIVELY

WEIGHING ISSUE OF PUBLICIZING NOTIFICATION UNDER FPA,
ALTHOUGH SCOPE AND INTENSITY REMAIN TO BE SEEN.

8. ANOTHER POINT OF INTEREST IS LUCIO PAREDES' APPARENT
EXPECTATION THAT MR. KISSINGER'S APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY
WILL BRING CHANGES IN OUR LATIN AMERICAN POLICY, A HOPE
THAT SEEMS TO BE QUITE WIDELY SHARED IN GOE.
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